

VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN MAPPER – HELP DOCUMENTATION



TABLE OF CONTENTS

****Click a topic to jump to that section****

[INTRODUCTION](#)

[MAP TOOLS AND NAVIGATION](#) – explains how to move around the site and zoom in and out

[MAP DATA LAYERS](#) – a list of data layers and descriptions

[PRINTING A MAP](#) – instructions for printing a map from the VOP Mapper site

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) Mapper help documentation. The Department of Conservation and Recreation developed the VOP Mapper to compliment the regional maps in the 2013 VOP and to allow users the freedom to further explore key recreation resources in Virginia. Mapping data was collected from numerous state and federal agencies, local governments and other sources. The visibility of map layers can be toggled on and off and a click on the map will return information about the resources at that location. You can access an assortment of basemaps provided by ESRI, the company that develops the most popular GIS mapping software. One basemap named “VA Basemaps” includes imagery developed by the Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN) for the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Please refer to the following sections to learn more about the functionality of the site. If you have comments or further questions, please contact the site manager at david.boyd@dcr.virginia.gov.

MAP TOOLS AND NAVIGATION

PAN

Panning the map only requires holding the left mouse button down and dragging the map in the desired direction.

ZOOM

You can zoom in and zoom out of the map viewer using different techniques. The slider to the top left of the map window allows you to zoom by dragging the slider up and down, or clicking the buttons at the top and bottom. Secondly, you can zoom in and out with more precision using certain keystrokes and mouse clicks:

ZOOM IN – press the “shift” and “alt” keys simultaneously and draw a box with the mouse using the left button. When you release the left mouse button you will zoom into the area of the box.

ZOOM OUT – press the “shift” and “ctrl” keys simultaneously and draw a box with the mouse using the left button. When you release the left mouse button you will zoom out. The smaller the box the further you will zoom out.

Also, by double-clicking on any location in the map viewer, the map will re-center and zoom in on that location.

FULL EXTENT

Clicking this button at the bottom of the map window will zoom the map to the extent of Virginia.

PREV EXTENT (button)

Clicking this button at the bottom of the map window will zoom the map to the previous extent.

NEXT EXTENT (button)

Clicking this button at the bottom of the map window will zoom the map to the next extent. This is only active after the PREV EXTENT button has been used.

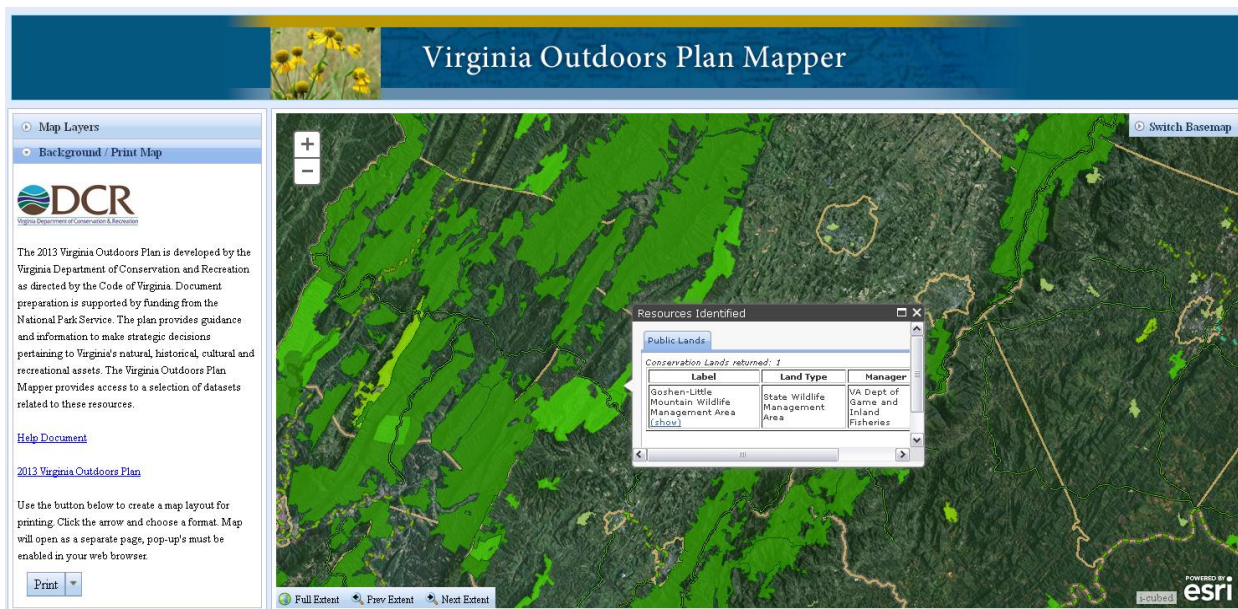
SWITCH BASEMAP

Click on the “Switch Basemap” button to the top right of the map viewer. Choose your desired basemap. To close this window, just click “Switch Basemap” a second time. See graphic below:



IDENTIFY

The identify function allows users to learn more about the mapped features on the map. Simply click a location on the map and a window will appear with the identify results. See graphic below:



In the identify results window, each map layer is included in a separate tab and each mapped feature will be listed in a separate row. You can use the scroll bars on the edge to thumb through the features (up and down) and access different layer tabs (left to right). Some layers and features include links to websites containing more details about the features. These will

appear in the identify window as “More Info”. *It’s important to note that the identify tool will return information on all layers in the map, regardless of visibility* (see “layer visibility” below). You can close the identify pop up by hitting the “x” in the upper right corner of the window.

LAYER VISIBILITY

You may find it helpful to turn certain layers on and off in the map window. To do this, click the “Map Layers” tab to the left to access a list of layers in the map legend. Each layer includes the icon used in the map and a check box. Click this box to toggle layer visibility. In the legend, a few layers have smaller boxes with plus or minus symbols. These layers are grouped and clicking this box collapses or expands the legend group. The “State Trails” layer is set to automatically turn off when you zoom past a certain scale. This is because these trail delineations are coarsely mapped and viewing them at a fine scale would be misleading.

MAP DATA LAYERS

LWCF (6f) STATE/LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

DCR manages the Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program on behalf of, and in partnership with the National Park Service. Point locations designated as LWCF locations in the VOP Mapper are only for these state assistance projects. Other programs such as the Forest Legacy Program, American Battlefield Program, Endangered Species grants, and others which also utilize LWCF funding are not included in this data set. Property protected through these programs may be contained within the VOP Mapper as managed or conserved lands in the “Public Lands” layer. Since the majority of these properties are also subject to protection in perpetuity it is highly recommended that users also research restrictions associated with individual Public Lands parcels. Data were developed by [VA-DCR](#).

BOAT ACCESS POINTS

Point locations for state maintained public boat access points in Virginia. Data developed by [VA-DGIF](#).

TRAILHEADS

Mapped point locations for many trailheads in Virginia were developed in October, 2012. This data is not yet comprehensive and is a work in progress. Most points are placed at the parking lot for the trailhead if known. However, some points only target the center of the public site. Data were developed or consolidated by [VA-DCR](#) using many sources. For information on trailheads owned or managed by the U.S. Forest Service, contact Karen Nabity knabity@fs.fed.us.

For information on other trails, or to provide point file data for future updates, contact Jennifer Wampler, Jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov.

STATE TRAILS

These include state significant non-motorized “trunkline” trails in Virginia, including existing trails, on-road routes and proposed trails as agreed upon by the state Greenways and Trails Task Force in October, 2009. To view the Task Force statewide trail action plan, go to http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/tr-sbiib2.shtml. Some trail segments are mapped at a very coarse scale. This is especially the case with the proposed segments because the actual delineation has not been decided. Data were compiled by [VA-DCR](#) using many sources between 2009 and 2012. For the most current information on the East Coast Greenway, contact Eric Weis eric@greenway.org. For the most current information on the Appalachian Trail, go to <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/about-the-trail/mapping-gis-data>. For the most current information on the Great Eastern Trail, contact Peter Fleszar gis@hike-mst.org. For the most current information on the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, contact Tammy Stidham tammy_stidham@nps.gov. For the most current information on the James River Heritage Trail and the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail, contact Jennifer Wampler Jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov.

VA SCENIC BYWAYS

National Scenic Byways and Virginia Byways are designated based on one or more archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities. Data were developed by [VDOT](#).

THEMATIC DRIVING TRAILS

Mapped routes for the state’s driving tours including heritage-based tours, agricultural or product-based tours, and nature-based tours. This data is not yet comprehensive and is a work in progress. Data were consolidated from existing sources for the Virginia Outdoors Plan in October, 2012. For the most current information on the Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries Birding and Wildlife trail sites and loops, go to <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/gis/gis-data.asp>. Many scenic drives and driving tours are listed on Virginia Tourism’s web page at <http://www.virginia.org/ScenicDrives/>. Winery tours are listed at <http://www.virginiawine.org/regions>. For information on other driving trails or to provide line file data for future updates, contact Jennifer Wampler Jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

These resources include buildings, structures, objects, sites and historic districts which are recognized as significant through listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and/or the National Register of Historic Places and/or have been designated as National Historic Landmarks. Data were developed by [VA-DHR](#).

SCENIC RIVERS

This data includes three classes of river stretches:

- Scenic Rivers - legislatively designated components
- Desirable components - evaluated and found worthy of designation
- Potential components – identified as being worthy of future study

Data were developed by [VA-DCR](#).

PUBLIC LANDS

This is a subset of the Conservation Lands Database and only includes lands that are known or believed to allow some kind of public access. Data were developed by [VA-DCR](#) with contributions from many federal, state, local and non-profit entities.

VA CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

Boundary for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Virginia. Data were developed by [VA-DCR](#).

JURISDICTIONS

Boundaries for the counties and incorporated cities in Virginia. Data were developed by [VA-DCR](#).

PLANNING REGIONS

Virginia is divided into 21 outdoor recreational planning regions. Each region is labeled at full extent, but the labels are removed as you zoom into the map. These regions are used in the VOP to summarize inventory data and apply recreation recommendations to areas. These divisions coincide in name area and boundary with existing planning district commissions, but each jurisdiction is only associated with one region. Data were developed by [VA-DCR](#).

PRINTING A MAP

The print button allows the user to export maps in one of several page sizes. **You must ENABLE POPUP'S in your browser to use this utility.** The maps are rendered in JPEG image format and appear as a separate webpage or tab. You can print a map immediately by choosing FILE -> PRINT or right clicking the map and choosing PRINT. You can also save it to file by right clicking the map and choosing "save as". The map legend at the bottom of the page can only accommodate a certain numbers of layer symbols. If you have most of the layers turned on some symbols will be excluded.

Click the arrow next to the PRINT button on the Background / Print Map tab. Several page options are available, but we recommend using the **Letter ANSI A LANDSCAPE** option for best results. See graphic below:

